

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the final Office Action dated August 13, 2007, issued in connection with the above-identified application. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. With this response, Claims 1-3 and 11-13 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced; thus, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

35 USC §103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11-13 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Sogabe (US Patent No. 6,762,789) and Aliaga (US Patent Publ. No. 2002/0176635). Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 11-13 have been amended to traverse such rejections.

Claim 1 now reads, in part, “, the first direction and the second direction being different from each other; and transmits the encoded image data of the omnidirectional images to the information processing apparatus, and such that image data of an image in a third direction has a lower resolution than image data in the first direction and second direction and the third direction being directly opposite from the first direction.” Claims 2,3 and 11-13 contain similar language.

The amendments are fully supported by the specification. For example, see the specification in FIG. 6 where the direction opposite of the viewing direction has the lowest resolution.

The combination of Sogabe and Aliaga do not disclose or suggest transmitting image data of an image in a direction opposite of the viewing direction having the lowest resolution. The cited section of Aliaga merely states, “view reconstruction may be accelerated during the execution of the interactive walkthrough by using fewer mappings than columns in the reconstructed image.” There is no mention of having at least three separate resolutions with the image resolution in the direction opposite of the view direction having the lowest resolution, as is claimed and fully supported by the specification.

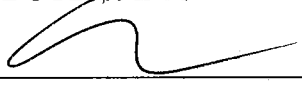
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-3, 11-13 and Claims 4-10, and 14-19 that depend therefrom are patentably distinguishable and in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

Respectfully submitted,

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